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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

OCT 11 1995

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senator
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 493
First and Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20510-4304

Dear Senator Robb:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 1995, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Charles H. Logan, regarding Apple Computer, Inc.'s ("Apple") petition for rulemaking which, requests an allocation of spectrum to provide unlicensed communications services. Mr. Logan expresses support for Apple's proposal. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a status report on this proposal and a related rulemaking.

On May 15, 1995, the Wireless Information Networks Forum ("WINForum") filed a Petition for Rulemaking (RM-8648), requesting that 250 megahertz of spectrum at 5.1 - 5.35 GHz be allocated for a new high-speed, high-bandwidth, unlicensed radio service, or Shared Unlicensed PErsonal Radio Network ("SUPERNet"). According to WINForum, SUPERNet is designed to allow wireless access to the full range of data communications capabilities now being deployed in landline networks to support multimedia and other resource-intensive applications.

On May 24, 1995, Apple filed a Petition for Rulemaking (RM-8653), requesting that 300 megahertz of spectrum at 5.15 - 5.30 GHz and 5.725 - 5.875 GHz be allocated for a new high-speed, high-bandwidth, unlicensed radio service. Apple contends that this allocation ("the NII Band") would promote full development of a National Information Infrastructure by making possible high-bandwidth access and interaction throughout a limited geographic area, where mobility is key, and by providing as well for a wireless element of "community networks" serving a larger area.

Honorable Charles S. Robb

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Please note that we have placed your correspondence in the docket for the Apple and WINForum petitions (RM-8653 and RM-8648) and assure you that your constituent's letter will be considered before the Commission makes a determination in this proceeding. Thank you for your interest in this matter. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Richard M. Smith
Chief
Office of Engineering and Technology

CHARLES S. ROBB

VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 11, 1995

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Vice Chairman,
Democratic Policy Committee

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room #814
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I have been contacted by Mr. Charles H. Logan of Arlington, Virginia, expressing concern about Apple Computer's proposal to set aside open access frequencies. I am enclosing a copy of the correspondence I've received.

I would appreciate it if you could review the letter and consider its insightful suggestions as the FCC evaluates related issues. Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Robb

CSR\egf
Enclosure
cc: Mr. Charles H. Logan

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July 12, 1995

The Honorable Charles Robb
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Robb:

I am writing to solicit your support for the proposal by Apple Computer that the FCC set aside a large block of frequencies that any American could use, without fee. I don't know what role Congress is playing in this idea at this point, but according to today's newspaper, the FCC has just finished collecting public comment. Since I had no prior opportunity to make any comment to FCC, I am hoping that you will convey my sentiments to them, as well as make note of them for the time that Congress does become involved in the issue.

The Apple proposal requests 300Mhz be set aside for community-wide broadcasting. A counter-proposal by telephone companies suggests 250 Mhz with a very limited range, suitable for only within-building broadcasting. Those restrictions would help the phone companies protect themselves from competition.

The public interest, as opposed to the interest of the phone companies, would be served better by the Apple proposal, which would allow unlimited innovation and experimentation with new technologies and services. In effect, it would create a small area of air space for the Internet. It is impossible to predict the advances this could lead to, and that is precisely why it should be as broad and as unrestricted in form as possible. Do not let the phone companies control or restrict this exciting new realm of communication and invention.

Congress may be worried that the federal government may lose some money by giving away a small part of the spectrum instead of auctioning it off. I think that is looking at it backward. The spectrum should be seen as belonging, originally and inherently, to The People [or to nobody, which is another way of saying the same thing] not to the government. Reserving 300 Mhz for unlicensed public use would be giving back to the public what is rightfully its in the first place. The federal revenues that would be "lost" would remain in the hands of taxpayers, who can decide for themselves what is the best and highest use of that money.

Sincerely,

Charles H Logan